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#### Plan can’t kick-start wind-growth- no demand

Pueblo Chieftan 8.25

[Dennis Darrow, “Wind Woes Go Beyond Tax Credit”, accessed: http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2012-08-25/features/sns-mct-wind-woes-go-beyond-tax-credit-20120825\_1\_production-tax-credit-wind-energy-wind-turbine]

8:04 a.m. EST, August 25, 2012|Dennis Darrow, The Pueblo Chieftain, Colo.

Even if a federal tax credit is extended, the U.S. wind energy market appears headed for a lull. Far fewer U.S. wind turbine orders appear in the offing for 2013 and 2014, according to the agency's latest Wind Technologies Market report released Aug. 15. The forecast isn't good for Vestas and other U.S. wind turbine makers, who in recent days have announced some layoffs while leaving the door open for more job cuts as orders slip. "Even with a (Production Tax Credit) extension . . . most predictions are for more modest wind power additions in the near term," the report states. Several industry analysts expect orders to drop by more than half in 2013 and 2014 even if Congress votes to extend the tax credit, according to the report.

#### Too many barriers beyond the tax credit- natural gas, unmet demand, no transmission, slowing electricity demand

Pueblo Chieftan 8.25

[Dennis Darrow, “Wind Woes Go Beyond Tax Credit”, accessed: http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2012-08-25/features/sns-mct-wind-woes-go-beyond-tax-credit-20120825\_1\_production-tax-credit-wind-energy-wind-turbine]

The challenges facing the industry extend beyond the tax credit. The Energy Department report lists a number of them: --Continued low natural gas and wholesale electricity prices, which make wind energy less attractive to utilities and independent power providers. --Less unmet demand under state renewal energy mandates. Some of the most aggressive renewable energy states, such as Colorado, are ahead of schedule in meeting their mandates while other states aren't as driven to boost renewable energy supplies. --A lack of electricity transmission lines. --A slowdown in the growth of electricity demand. --In some regions, growing demand for solar. The coming slump will jeopardize the wind industry's announced 2008 goal of providing 20 percent of the nation's electricity by 2030, the agency said. Even benefiting from a surge in projects through this year, "All of the projections . . . even those that assume PTC extension . . . fall short of the annual growth envisioned," the agency said.

#### Can’t solve for manufacturing crisis- foreign markets determine the macro-health of the sector

LA Times 9.7

[http://articles.latimes.com/2012/sep/07/business/la-fi-jobs-manufacturing-20120908]

The sector added 512,000 jobs since January 2010, reversing a downward trend that began in the late 1980s. Manufacturing was really roaring from December through March, when the industry added an average of 38,000 jobs a month. But that pace has slowed dramatically over the last five months, with an average of just 7,600 manufacturing jobs added. The slowdown came with the acceleration of Europe's debt crisis, which pushed that region into recession and helped reduce economic growth around the world. Exports are vital to U.S. manufacturers, so the global slowdown is a particular challenge for the industry, said Jan Eberly, the assistant Treasury secretary for economic policy. Mark Zandi, chief economist with Moody's Analytics, said lower sales have caused factory inventories to build up, leading manufacturers to reduce their production and hiring. "U.S. manufacturers just aren't selling as much stuff overseas," he said. "Once they get their inventories back to where they want them, we'll see more production."

#### ======Wind power jobs are either temporary or low-skill –due to lack of an education system that can accommodate the industry, growth will be moderate at best

Simons NDG

[Wes Simons, No date given, Wind energy may be hot, but can it create jobs?, <http://www.seattlebusinessmag.com/blog/wind-energy-may-be-hot-can-it-create-jobs>, uwyo//amp]

These jobs will fall into two main categories. The first category is planning, which includes construction, zoning and design. These jobs will depend largely on the number of wind farms that Washington constructs each year, and could decline rapidly if the demand for wind power in Washington decreases. The second category is maintenance and repair. Although maintaining windmills doesn’t require a large workforce, there is a possibility that the demand for the job will increase, especially when the currently aging workforce retires. Although Hardcastle predicts that jobs in the windmill and wind power sector will see at least moderate growth, he admits that the education system is currently not setup to handle the training required for these jobs. There are wind programs available, like a wind technician class in Vancouver that students can complete in six months. Hardcastle thinks that preparing students for a field as limited as wind may not be as effective as providing them with a broader skill set, like focusing on energy in general. After completing an energy degree, students can earn a certificate in their desired field, or even earn multiple certificates so that they have the ability to move between different fields. Quick hit programs that provide only a specialized skill are great for filling job gaps, but they don’t create a hearty workforce that has the ability to grow with the industry, and in turn fuel industry growth. Because of Washington's established wind farms, it is possible that jobs could be created with the intent to train new wind farm technicians and other workers.

### 2NC AT: Perm – Do Both

#### [ ] Still links to federal government action disads.

#### [ ] Federal action stifles state action in anticipation

Barry Rabe, Prof Public Policy @ U. of Michigan, “Contested Federalism and American Climate Policy”, Publlius, 2011

The limited scope and uncertain future of new federal climate policy initiatives thus far under contested federalism underscored the reality that much of the American approach to climate policy will in all likelihood continue to be state- and regionally-centered in the coming years. After the surge of sub-federal policy development in the period of state domination, states began to slow their efforts, in large part due to anticipated federal action on a large scale. The collapse of Congressional deliberation on major legislation returned much of the lead in climate governance to states. This raised significant questions of implementation, including a series of major challenges and opportunities.

#### [ ] No solvency – duplicate action increases implementation problems and undermines solvency

Christopher K. Leman and Robert H. Nelson, Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C., and Professor of Politics, Brandeis University, , Economics Staff, Office of Policy Analysis, United States Department of the Interior, Summer 1982 (“The Rise of Managerial Federalism” – Environmental Law) p. lexis

When federal policy had limited goals, the hitches and compromises occasioned by intergovernmental bargaining were tolerable; today, however, when more social resources and values are at stake, the costs of joint action are much greater. Efforts to implement intergovernmental programs demonstrate that these programs are prone to disappointing results because of the complexity of joint action and the profusion of opportunities for participants to veto or alter results. The cost of joint action between levels of government may be too high when results are paramount. These views challenge the system of managerial federalism that has emerged since the New Deal. Joint intergovernmental program results may be worse than what either the states or the federal government would produce alone. Is the intergovernmental system, as it is currently conceived, simply unworkable? Would it be better to return to the classical federalism concept with a clear division of responsibilities, with most areas strictly assigned to the states? Or, conceivably, are the states anachronisms that should be replaced by a unified federal system with decentralization taking place through federal administrative regions designed for modern circumstances?

### States CP theory Answers:

**Counter interpretation**: the negative is allowed a 50 states fiat cp.

They say best for real world policy but interstate compact limits cp too much for debate. Contrived cp are important to debate to test the affirmative.

Best for education because we get to debate the issues.

**Fiat** allows for normal means which means if a interstate compact is normal means that is how the counterplan functions.

#### Real World

#### a) Literature Base- uniform ation is discussed in lots of literature.

#### Interstate compacts, drinking age laws, amendment ratification, title ix conditions prove uniform fiat happens and is in the literature

#### Precedent on horizontal diffusion and de facto national policy from state actions

Barry Rabe, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Environmental Policy; J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, “Second Generation Climate Policies in the American States: Proliferation, Diffusion and Regionalization”, Paper presented at the conference on “Climate Change Politics in North America”, May 18-19, 2006

Much of the existing infrastructure of state climate programs has been individually tailored to the needs of a particular state. However, there is increasing evidence that some policies enacted in one state ultimately are being replicated in one or more additional states. There is, in fact, precedent in other policy arenas for such “policy diffusion” to spread across the nation and become, in effect, a de facto national policy (Mossberger 2000). Under such circumstances, it may be possible for the states to simply negotiate inter-state differences and implement these inter-related programs. There may also be some tipping point at which diffusion reaches sufficient numbers of states that the federal government concludes that it should respond by drawing from these state models and establishing some version of this on a national basis. In the late 1980s, for example, the Reagan Administration actively opposed a federal role in increasing energy efficiency standards for a wide range of household appliances. After more than two dozen states responded with some form of state-specific regulation, the Congress and President Reagan negotiated a federal bill that drew heavily on state experience but preempted all existing state laws in the process.

#### b) Process education- we are such, and aff fiat isn’t real world process education becauce there is nouniform usfg actor that gets fiat.

#### c) Better Politics Debates- we are still having a politics debate. Proves they can happen nore.

#### d) Constitutionality- rollback but We get CP with fiat. There is no rollback

#### 3. Reject the arg not the team

### AT: 50 State Fiat Illigit – Real World – Uniform Action

#### Ample precedent for cooperative state actions – interstate compacts and multistate organization and commisions

Barry Rabe, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Environmental Policy; J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, “Second Generation Climate Policies in the American States: Proliferation, Diffusion and Regionalization”, Paper presented at the conference on “Climate Change Politics in North America”, May 18-19, 2006

There is also ample precedent in American federalism for states to work cooperatively on common concerns and, in some instances, formalize regional approaches involving two or more states (Derthick 1975; Zimmerman 2002). Some regional strategies take a formal structure, such as interstate compacts, which involve a formal agreement ratified by participating states and ultimately Congress. These have been used extensively among states that share responsibility for an ecosystem, such as the Great Lakes Commission which was established in 1955 to promote the environmental well-being of the Basin. Other strategies may entail establishing a multi-state organization or commission to facilitate ongoing negotiation over particular issues or memoranda-ofunderstanding concerning reciprocal policy commitments. An obvious rationale for regional action involves those instances in which participating jurisdictions see a common advantage to working cooperatively rather than independently on a particular policy issue.

#### Real world - The states can act in unison to preempt federal action all the time.

RAZOOK (Prof of Legal Studies @ Univ. of OK) 2000

[Nim, “Uniformity Private Laws”, American Business Law Journal, Fall, p. ln//mac-tjc]

The means advanced by our polity to achieve regulatory uniformity are instructive for three reasons. First, examples of interstate cooperation via interstate compacts, agreements or uniform state laws appear to be the foil for national intervention. That states have somehow managed to overcome the collective action problems associated with efforts to cooperate and to reach some cooperative solution suggests that the costs of interstate cooperation are apparently not insurmountable obstacles. Second, efforts by the states to forge their own solutions can illuminate the underlying reasons for such cooperation in a system in which the forces of maximization discourage such efforts. 42 This section suggests that they do so often to retain their autonomy and to avoid federal preemption. 43 Finally, comparing the efforts of the Conference in promulgating and advocating uniform state laws with the decisions by Congress to preempt historically state-governed areas of law leads to a discussion of whether the Conference's efforts might influence Congressional preemption decisions.

### Condo good.

#### 1 cp 1 k no voter to reject team

## \*\*States CP\*\*

## \*A2 UNLV States Solvency Deficits\*\*

### A2 UNLV- Not all States have tax

#### First, an income tax is not necessary- the text only specifies a production credit, which means it can be paid out on another tax-line or as a direct subsidy after production

#### Second, there’s not impact to this- the PTC is only relevant because it pays out 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour, not because it reduces income taxes- the tax-line where it is recorded is irrelevant

### A2 UNLV- Investors Won’t Respond

#### First, this sarzynski ev is only about patchwork fluctutations which the counterplan solves because:

#### Uniformity- the states will act in unison, resolving the patchwork warrant and

#### The text says ‘permanent’ which means either the CP solves fluctuations as much as the plan or the plan will also fluctuate the credit level and this takes out their solvency

#### Second, Counterplan solves public visibility without federal leadership

APA, American Planning Association, “Policy Guide on Energy”, April 25, 2004. http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/energy.htm

c. Energy professionals have developed a substantial number of technologies, policies, and education programs that promote sustainable use of energy resources. Many local government entities have received grants to incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy into schools and other government facilities, and to increase public transportation. These projects have helped raise awareness of clean energy alternatives and have made these options visible to the public. In brief, there is evidence to suggest that in the absence of federal leadership, throughout the U.S. resource-efficient energy policy is being envisioned and formulated by consensus at the state, county, and municipal levels.

### A2 UNLV- Fed Action Prereq

#### First, this Goldstein evidence is not about the plan- the prerequisites are FEDERAL RPS or CAP AND TRADE. That has two impacts:

#### Links equally to the plan- PTCs are a direct credit to producers which means only high-wind states get them, creating the same efficiency problem they cite

#### Guts their solvency- no shift to renewables without national RPS or Cap and Trade

#### Second, we solve the fed key warrant:

#### Vertical policy diffusion – prefer this evidence it is specific to incentives and energy policy

Roberta Mann, Professor and Dean’s Distinguished Faculty Fellow, University of Oregon School of Law, “BUSINESS LAW FORUM TAXATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL TAX POLICIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: COORDINATION OR CROSS-PURPOSE?”, Lewis and Clark Law Review, Summer 2011. 15 Lewis & Clark L. Rev. 369

Several groups of researchers have examined the potential interactions between federal and state climate policies. n54 Andrew Aulisi [\*377] and other researchers from the World Resources Institute examined case studies to determine when leading state policies would "vertically diffuse" and be adopted by the national government. n55 The most significant factors for successful vertical policy diffusion were the push for diffusion by state champions, policy learning by example and innovation, and the spillover effect. n56 State officials may press for federal adoption of their policies because those policies may fail without expansion to the national level, due to "competition with other states with conflicting policies or weaker commitments to the policy goal." n57 State policies may demonstrate that a policy can be implemented and be effective. The spillover effect is "the extent to which the perceived benefits and costs of state policies cross over state lines to other states" or the nation. n58 The results of vertical diffusion may be full or partial preemption of the issue by the federal government, issuance of grants or incentives by the federal government to the states to perpetuate the activity, or federal mandates, with or without funding. n59 The researchers concluded that the RGGI cap-and-trade program contained all the significant vertical diffusion factors, including the somewhat less significant factor of business support for federal action. n60 The researchers predicted that the federal government is "likely to use partial preemption to respond to the RGGI ... standards." n61 The House-passed climate change bill (ACES) would have fully preempted existing regional cap-and-trade programs. n62 The choice of full preemption in the legislation may have been driven by the concerns of business constituents. Business interests have considerable influence on policymaking in the United States. n63 Business support for federal action is motivated by the desire for uniform standards, which enables businesses to avoid a patchwork of varying state rules that would increase compliance costs and create competitive advantages. n64

#### \*\*\*State level action is starting point for further global action\*\*\*

Franz T. Litz, Esq., Senior Fellow at world resource institute, “toward a constructive dialogue on federal and state roles in u.s. climate change policy”, World Resource Institute, June 2008

1. Climate Change is Global; Politics are Local It is often said that climate change mitigation is a global problem. And indeed, the science of climate change makes clear that mitigation at the global level is needed. A ton of carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted from a power plant in the United States is the scientific equivalent of a ton emitted from a power plant in Australia. To avoid increasing global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, therefore, emission reductions must occur globally. This scientific reality compels an international solution. The sum of all significant actions taken on climate change in the United States however, reflects another axiom: all politics are local. Environmental action in the United States has historically started at the local and state levels, and climate change action is no exception. And so while the science demands effective leadership at the global level, politically effective leadership in the United States has begun at the local and state levels. In considering how best to design an effective national climate change policy, it may be helpful to keep both the scientific and political axioms in mind. While the science demands a global response, the politics may favor movement at the ground level.

### A2 UNLV- Innovation

#### First, no link to this evidence- the spending it cites is expensive R&D or economic development- that’s not about the plan or counterplan- they need evidence that says the states can’t afford a PTC

#### Second, the aff doesn’t have an innovation internal to its advantages- there is no impact to this solvency deficit

#### Third, the plan is bad for innovation- a permanent credit destroys incentives to compete

Jenkins et al 12

[Jesse, Director of Energy and Climate Policy, Breakthrough Institute, Mark Muro, Senior Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution, Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger, Cofounders, Breakthrough Institute, Letha Tawney, Senior Associate, World Resources Institute, Alex Trembath, Policy Associate, Breakthrough Institute, Beyond Boom and Bust: Putting Clean Tech on a Path to Subsidy Independence, April 2012, p. online//wyo-tjc]

In light of these budgetary findings, this report concludes that policy makers and business leaders need to unite behind timely energy policy reform that supports US innovation, rewards continual improvements in clean tech price and performance, and secures subsidy independence for clean tech markets as rapidly as possible. The key implications of this report’s analysis are: - The maintenance of perpetual subsidies is not a sustainable solution to the new challenges facing the US clean tech industry. Clean tech markets in America have lurched from boom to bust for decades, and the root cause remains the same: the higher costs and risks of emerging US clean tech products relative to either incumbent fossil energy technologies or lower-cost international competitors, which make US clean tech sectors dependent on subsidy and policy support. - Cost competitiveness is achievable, but until technological innovation and cost declines can secure independence from ongoing subsidy, clean tech segments will remain continually imperiled by the threat of policy expiration and political uncertainty. Continual improvement in price and performance is thus the only real pathway beyond the cycle of clean tech boom and bust.

### A2 UNLV State Tax Incentives Fail

#### First, this Sarzynski evidence is about income, property and sales tax incentives to install solar panels- it’s neither about wind OR a production credit

#### Second, there is no federal key warrant to a PTC- it is only effective because it lowers the cost of wind by providing a 2.2 cent credit- the states can match that monetarily

### State RPS Solves Wind

#### State RPS solves wind industry, creates demand for production

Brown 2012, Phillip (specialist in Energy Policy). “US Renewable Electricity: how does the production tax credit impact wind markets?” Congressional Research Service. June 20, 2012. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42576.pdf>, accessed 9/16/12,WYO/JF

Other factors that can affect wind development include (1) state renewable portfolio standards (RPS), (2) U.S. electricity demand growth, and (3) the price of natural gas. State RPS policies have been the primary demand creator for wind projects, in most cases, by requiring certain utilities to source a percentage of their retail electricity sales from renewable generators. Market analysis indicates that incremental RPS-driven demand for all sources of renewable power is estimated to be 4 GW-5 GW annually until 2025. Additionally, U.S. electricity demand growth is expected to be modest for the foreseeable future, meaning that there will likely be modest demand for new electric power capacity. Finally, the price of natural gas can also influence wind markets. Low natural gas prices can erode the economic competitiveness of wind electricity, while high natural gas prices can result in opportunities for wind to compete economically without the PTC. Current estimates from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) project sustained low, but increasing, natural gas prices for the next several years.

#### State RPS demand creates the ability for the PTC to be successful

Brown 2012, Phillip (specialist in Energy Policy). “US Renewable Electricity: how does the production tax credit impact wind markets?” Congressional Research Service. June 20, 2012. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42576.pdf>, accessed 9/16/12,WYO/JF

Short-term PTC extensions generally result in short-term manufacturing, development, and employment activity as project developers and investors seek to capture the value of tax credit incentives during their availability window. However, since much of the demand for wind generated electricity is a result of state-level renewable portfolio standards (discussed in more detail below), a short-term PTC extension would likely result in accelerating wind deployments needed to comply with state RPS requirements. This acceleration scenario is illustrated by the BNEF three-year PTC extension forecast (dark green line) in Figure 2, where annual installations reach 4 GW in 2013, 5 GW in 2014, and then ramp up to approximately 10 GW in 2015, when the credit extension would end. As a result, RPS-related demand in later years would likely decline and any future PTC extensions may or may not provide enough incentive to stimulate additional development activity.

#### State RPS solves energy production

Brown 2012, Phillip (specialist in Energy Policy). “US Renewable Electricity: how does the production tax credit impact wind markets?” Congressional Research Service. June 20, 2012. <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42576.pdf>, accessed 9/16/12,WYO/JF

Generally, but not in all instances, a renewable portfolio standard is a policy that requires a certain percentage of electricity sold or generated within a defined geographical area be derived from qualified renewable energy sources.18 As of May 2012, 29 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had binding RPS policies.19 While the general concept of an RPS is the same for all states, each state typically has a unique design and implementation approach for its respective RPS policy. For example, the state of California requires that by 2020 its utility companies will have 33% of their retail electricity sales generated from renewable energy sources.20 State RPS policies are the primary renewable electricity demand driver, although demand for renewable power can also be encouraged by voluntary green power programs and fundamental economics.21 Analysis by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) indicates that approximately 27 GW of non-hydro renewable electricity capacity was added in states with RPS policies in the years 1998-2010.22 On a capacity basis, 92% of these renewable electricity additions were wind power projects.23 From a generation perspective, the combination of mandated demand at the state level and federal financial incentives has created an environment that supports development of renewable electricity projects, most notably wind projects. One typical compliance approach for RPS policies is submitting renewable energy certificates (RECs) to the appropriate state agency that manages RPS compliance.24 RECs, each of which receives a unique tracking identification number, represent the renewable attributes of electricity generated from a qualified renewable power facility. One REC typically represents one megawatt-hour of renewable electricity. RECs can be obtained on either a bundled basis, where a utility company contracts to purchase both the electricity and associated RECs from a renewable generator, or an unbundled basis, in which case a utility company may purchase qualified RECs from other entities. RECs can potentially provide an additional revenue source for wind projects, although the value of RECs can vary depending on the supply/demand balance within certain markets. Analysis of state RPS compliance indicates that existing renewable electricity capacity may be adequate to allow for RPS compliance over the next several years.

### States Solve Wind Production

#### State renewable energy standards are the most powerful incentive for wind energy

Ward 11

(Mitchell Ward, Houston Business and Tax Law Journal. “THE PTC AND WIND ENERGY: RESTRUCTURING THE PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT AS A MORE EFFECTIVE INCENTIVE” http://www.hbtlj.org/v11p2/MITCHELLWARD.pdf//wyoccd)

As the United States economy tries to gather its composure after the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression,1 one breath of fresh air appears on the horizon: the wind. "Despite a crippling recession and tight credit markets, the American wind power industry grew at a blistering pace in 2009, adding 39 percent more capacity."2 There is no doubt that this growth is largely attributable to the vast amount of spending provisions and tax incentives aimed towards renewable energies in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("ARRA").3 However, the ARRA did not achieve this alone. Since 1992, the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit ("PTC") has encouraged investment in the U.S. wind-energy market, more than quadrupling domestic production since its inception.4 Before enactment of the ARRA, wind power was primarily encouraged by the PTC, the accelerated five-year depreciation of wind energy equipment, and the Renewable Energy Production Incentive, which provides "production incentive to publicly owned utilities and cooperatives that do not incur federal tax liability."5 Additionally, several states have renewable energy portfolio standards considered to be "the most powerful mandates of the various incentives."6

#### State incentives solve wind power generation-Oklahoma proves

Dotson 9-4

(Sharryn Dotson is the online editor for Power Engineering magazine and a contributing columnist to Renewable Energy World North America magazine. “Oklahoma's Wind Power Development Strategy” http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2012/09/oklahomas-wind-power-development-strategy//wyoccd)

Oklahoma, USA -- Once known for oil and gas production, Oklahoma has quickly established itself as a major player in the wind power generation industry. Today the state is taking advantage of its abundant natural resources with rapid development of wind. Oklahoma was not always a big source of wind power projects, but a leader in oil and gas, and that may be what helped the state to develop its wind resources. “Our history and experience with the oil and gas industry helped us to understand the energy industry, so adding wind to the generation mix made logical sense,” said Kylah McNabb, wind development specialist out of the state Energy Office at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. McNabb said the state has 7,000 MW of wind energy in the queue and more that are reaching the development phase. The addition of transmission lines has also helped to expand the industry, including the proposed 800 mile (1280 km), 500 kV Clean Line Energy Plains and Eastern transmission line, which would be built from wind farms in Guymon in the Oklahoma panhandle to the Tennessee Valley Authority in Memphis. The line is expected to open up 3,500 MW of wind capacity for export. Construction is expected to begin in 2014, with service scheduled to begin in 2017. “The state has been very supportive of the Clean Line development,” said state Energy Secretary Michael Ming. “The line is privately funded, and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission is behind it by granting utility status for building the line to Clean Line.” Utility status puts Clean Line one step closer to raising the funding required from private and public investors for actual construction of the project. Examples of successful investment in the state”s wind sector come from Enel Green Power SpA, which was recently awarded $220 million in investments from a group — including JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and GE Capital - for the 235 MW Chisholm View wind project in Oklahoma. When completed, the project will sell the output to Alabama Power, a unit of Southern Power, under a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA). And, businesses have opened manufacturing facilities including Siemens, which opened a facility in Woodward in February 2012. This centre will store and distribute main components and spare parts, including wind turbine blades, drive assemblies and generators, as well as tooling operations. Siemens said it plans to create up to 40 jobs at the facility over the next five years. “You can”t discount the location,” said Ming, “as it”s at the epicenter of world class wind resources in the mid-continent.” Indeed, Oklahoma is where Siemens is testing its newest wind turbine, the SWT-3.0-101, rated at 3 MW. Three machines are currently in use at the 227.5 MW Crossroads wind farm, completed in January 2012 in northwestern Oklahoma. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) said in its annual report for 2011 that Oklahoma ranked eighth for wind projects under construction, and 10th for states with wind as a percentage of their portfolio, but the state did not reach the top 10 for overall wind jobs. Commerce”s McNabb said the reason for the disconnect is the difficulty in reporting wind jobs. “We had more workers on the ground when projects were being developed, and a bulk of the new jobs are now in manufacturing,” McNabb said. “The resource is here, and that”s what we are focusing on right now. That”s what drew in Siemens.” A state energy plan Ming said Oklahoma plans to have 3 GW of wind energy online by the end of 2012, which will beat the state”s Energy Plan of 15 percent renewable energy by three years, with more projects to come online in the future. “It”s a standard and not a mandate, so it allows market involvement and keeps us as a low-cost electricity state. We are able to grow without adverse rates. It also makes PPAs price mitigaters. Last summer shows how wind does not need cooling water, especially since we were in a severe drought,” Ming said. McNabb explains, “It shows that wind can work in fair market conditions.” Making the switch to renewables Utilities in the state have not had issues in adding wind power to their portfolios. “We had state incentives and transmission and enough injection points,” Ming said. “That contrasts with other states that built wind but no transmission. Also, wind and gas make good partners in terms of integration.”